

Police Athletic League and Etonic Sneaker Co. Sponsor Basketball Dunking Contest

by John Ryan

On Sunday, November 14, the Police Athletic League and the Etonic Sneaker Company sponsored a basketball dunking contest, which was held right here at Bishop Ford.

There was no admission charge, and some of the best dunkers from the five boros attended.

Ford's own Deeno Golding and Al Johnson participated but, unfortunately, did not advance to the finals.

Six of the finalists from a previous contest held in Boston attended and watched as the New York contestants battled it out to advance to the finals.

Before long, from the New York dunkers there had risen three finalists. The six Boston players then showed their stuff, and the judges chose three of the boys to face off against the New Yorkers.

Each of the six boys had three dunks a piece, and after some grueling, rim-ripping jams, the judges came to a decision; Boston had defeated New York.

There were no hard feelings, for the afternoon was fun for everyone, and Etonic had donated ten thousand dollars to PAL for the afternoon. Overall, the afternoon was a huge success, and everyone had a great time (except for Mr. Nash, who looked like he was going to have a heart attack each time someone grabbed the rim).



HIGH POINT

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BISHOP FORD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Christmas, 1987

Drama Club Tackles Neil Simon



The members of the cast of Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs* pictured above, standing, left to right: John Ryan, Kate Smith, David Ortiz, Director Joseph Mingrone; seated, left to right: Karen Fabbriatore, Tina Pagano, Courtney Nash, Collen Martin; camera shy: Lawrence Callahan.

by John C. Ryan

The life of a Jewish family is the theme of Neil Simon's play, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. The story is told to us by one Eugene Morris Jerome (which, according to him is one of the worst names ever given to a male child, second only to Haskell Fleischman).

Simon has Eugene interact with his family and, at key points, step out of the story and speak directly to us in the audience. Some of Eugene's funniest lines are said directly to the audience, and this not only lets us identify better with Eugene but brings us into the Jerome living room to be, in fact, part of the play.

Cast in the play are David Ortiz as Eugene Jerome, Courtney Nash as Kate Jerome, Larry Callahan as Jack Jerome, Kate Smith as

Nora Morton, Karen Fabbriatore as Laurie Jerome, Colleen Martin as Blanche Morton, and John Ryan as Eugene's brother, Stanley Jerome.

Mr. Mingrone, the director, did a great job with all of his previous plays, and I am sure he will not disappoint us with *Brighton Beach Memoirs*.

The newcomer to the stage and to the Drama Club is Kate Smith (Nora Morton). Kate is a sophomore and happens to be the underclassman in the play. We all realized at the beginning how hard it would be for Kate to adjust and feel comfortable around the other members of the club, who have not only worked together before, but happen to be very good friends. Besides all this, this is Kate's first play. I am glad to say that Kate has adjusted wonderfully

and is already accepted as "one of the family."

The play is scheduled to run for two nights in December: Friday, the 11th, and Saturday, the 12th.

The Bishop Ford Chalk Circle Players put on two plays a year, and the first has the directing, acting, and potential to be an incredible production.

Thanks to Mr. Borch and the rest of the Technical Crew, who have been working seriously at creating one of the most difficult sets ever attempted at Ford, we will be able to show you the Jerome house in its entirety. The set will be a two-story house, with acting on both floors!

This is a thrill for the entire Drama Club. We hope to see you at the Theatre in December.

Jean-Marc Pierre Wins Essay Contest

Bishop Ford's Bicentennial Writing Competition was conducted during the spring of 1987. Students enrolled in the American Studies program were encouraged to submit an essay not exceeding 1500 words on "The Constitution: How does the separation of powers help make it work?" The purposes of the competition were to expand and improve students' knowledge of our nation's constitution and form of government and to provide an opportunity for students to develop their research and writing skills. A committee of teachers selected the essay of student Jean-Marc Pierre. His essay was chosen because of his ability to express ideas and to organize points in a clear, concise and original manner.



Academic Dean Rocco Grella (left) and Social Studies Department Chairman William Ozga (right) congratulate contest winner Jean-Marc Pierre.

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected to the National Honor Society:

- Kerri Barbour
- Joyce Chin
- Erika Church
- Shirley Collado
- Dawn Courtright
- Richela Fabian
- Karen Fabbriatore
- Lucy Ferrarotto
- Robert Fodera
- Renee Fontenelle
- Charise Hall
- Carleen Hodge
- Denise Lau
- Michelle Maldonado
- Elizabeth McGee
- DayAn Molina
- Kwame Myrie
- Anthony Navarro
- John Orlando
- Michelle Peters
- Melanie Rotunno
- Francesca Ruggeri
- Stephen Williamsen

☆☆☆☆☆

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected to the National Business Honor Society:

- Sophia Barrera
- Joseph Belleus
- Maria Carcamo
- Deborah Lynn Cimino
- Maureen Donnellan
- Patricia La Fata
- Anthony Marucci
- Robert Maina
- Beneva Olivo
- Vanessa Rodriguez
- Jennifer Shoemaker
- Paul Spruyt
- Steven Stimus
- Joann Vallario

Dance-a-thon Planned

by Sonia Perez

As you might know, the annual Bishop Ford Dance Marathon or "Superdance" is set to be held from January 29 to 30. The whole purpose of this dance is to raise money for patients with neuromuscular diseases or muscular dystrophy. This money will help MDA provide comprehensive medical care, summer camp, and world-wide research programs for patients. At the same time, you will be having fun dancing!

To register for the Dance-a-thon, go to the Student Activities Office and ask for information. You will be given a superdance kit. You can then start getting your donations. In the kit you will find fund-raising methods to help you. Dancers must have a minimum of \$100 collected in donations before the event. The registration fee is \$5.00. Anyone bringing in donation money before December 22 may be entitled to a bonus prize. Superdancers with the most donations, or having brought in their money early, are entitled to prizes, such as a trip to Orlando, Florida or Mets' Saturday season tickets.

The National Honor Society and the Student Council helped raise more funds by holding events like the cake sale on Monday, the 9th of November. When asked about the Superdance, the head man at the Student Activities Office, Mr. Anderson, said, "In my opinion this is a very worthy cause, and I hope most of the students here at Ford will take part in it and help and have a great time!

Faculty Focus: Mr. James "Radical" Radigan

by Blanca Cepeda

Mr. Radigan is not only a man, he's a lean, mean, teaching machine, who was sent to earth eighteen years ago to bring knowledge and wisdom to all the knowledgeable teenagers at Bishop Ford. He was chosen to come to earth because he studied at Fordham University, and there he majored in math. He also received a master's degree from New York University. But, most importantly, he was chosen because he was the only one seen fit to bring knowledge to the knowledge hungry students at Bishop Ford High School. He was sent to Bishop Ford High School because the faculty members could no longer stand the constant, painful screaming of the students day

and night, the pain of their withholding their yearning, secret, deadly passion for more knowledge of math.

The faculty members said they were not going to take this anymore, and so they asked, cried, and begged for a man who could at last satisfy their students' intellectual needs.

Mr. Radigan teaches freshman algebra and junior trigonometry. His math classes are not just math classes, they are an adventure into numerical ecstasy. He also teaches drivers ed., before and after school, five days a week. His drivers ed. classes are an impassioned, vibrating voyage into the lust-filled streets of New York. This man, besides being an absolutely perfect male teaching specimen, also finds time for his hobbies,

which include tennis and bowling.

When Mr. Radigan is not being pursued by bloodsucking intellectuals yearning for knowledge, he finds himself with little spare time.

Mr. Radigan thinks that next year's seniors should wear uniforms, because some students can't handle the freedom of wearing what they want. Why is this so? This is so because many intellectually aroused students might just bare all in the excitement of having a real half-man/half-teaching-machine around school.

When Mr. Radigan, our mathematical genius, was asked what was the best thing about Bishop Ford, he replied, "The best thing about Bishop Ford is the people I work with."



Mathematics Department Chairman James Radigan under a photo of one of his freshman students.

Toward Preventing Suicide

by Shirley Collado

There are many problems that result from the society in which we live today. One of the biggest problems is **suicide**. Unfortunately, suicide occurs most frequently among **teenagers**. In the last twenty years, suicide has increased three-hundred percent among young people between the ages of fifteen and twenty-four.

We all at one point or another in our lives may wish to die, and some of us succeed

in killing ourselves. Suicide is a result of depression. It is not a disease but an expression of anger. Suicide among today's youth may be related to personal failure, rejection or loss.

Here at Ford we are in what **may** be considered a "healthy" environment. The student body at Ford are as regular and ordinary as any other high school students. We are all teenagers; we all have problems and experience stress. It might be school,

college, future plans, drugs, peer pressure, or (the chief topic in most cases) **parents**. All of these daily tensions may lead to suicide. Some people know how to cope with depression, but, unfortunately, many people don't.

Suicide is a serious problem; we must be aware of its warning signs. Here are a couple of positive prevention tips that mental health experts suggest:

(a) Learn to recognize the symptoms of suicide.

(b) Don't try to solve the problem alone. Tell a parent, counselor, or teacher about it. Many cities have "suicide hot-lines" that can give you assistance.

(c) Don't leave the suicidal person alone. Stay with the person until help arrives.

(d) Listen carefully to what this person has to say, because people who attempt suicide need to get their thoughts and feelings out in the open.

It is obvious that such a serious problem can be helped, a problem that may even exist in our own high school. Fortunately, you can help other teenagers and make a difference in their lives.

Two Men and Their Toys

by Christopher Mari

The next summit will have begun on December 7th of this year, the date which we know as Pearl Harbor Day. President Reagan has been quoted as saying, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if Pearl Harbor Day could be superseded by the day on which we started down the path to peace?" And it sounds too good to be believed. At this summit, which was in the U.S. for the first time in 15 years, they discussed signing an accord that will directly require the destruction of nuclear weapons. Gorbachev expected them to sign a paper saying that the U.S. and the Soviet intermediate-range nuclear weapons will be put out of commission. As for the Soviets, they find this to be "a fundamentally new relationship between the Soviet Union and the United States."

Now, as you read this, you may think that there will be peace in our time. But the Soviets wish to put limits on (if not stop) Mr. Reagan's Star Wars Program. And we know how Mr. Reagan loves his Star Wars Program. Thus, serious differences still remain. Reagan thinks there is no way we can give up this defense program.

Now, let's look at this defense program. Mr. Reagan believes it will protect America. But its anti-nuclear missiles may only destroy 60% of incoming missiles; 40% of the targets will still get hit.

I can't see the point. We're this close to a peaceful world; should it all be destroyed by Reagan's cowboy ego? The Soviets didn't want to back down on a certain missile of theirs that does maximum destruction to the environment, while keeping the industrial sites okay. What is the point of these summits, if no one will give in a little? My God, why should we have an arsenal that can blow the other off the map for a difference in beliefs? Who are we and who are the Soviets to think the other is so bad? Maybe it's politics, maybe propaganda, but I'm not taking sides.

I believe in America and her values, but not when they are twisted by ego. I'm on the side of peace. Communism is not a great form of government, but we should not kill each other over it.

Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev: Put away your cowboy hats and six-shooters, look at the world around you; help it, if you care so much about it. Give in a little. Learn to change for the better. Then, only, can we open the door to Utopia.

Letters To The Editor...

School Spirit

Dear Editor:

Whatever happened to school spirit? Where is the enthusiasm of the students? Isn't high school supposed to be like what it is in the movies: the gorgeous varsity football team, their girl friends, the pretty, popular cheerleaders, pep rallies, etc., etc.? I know life can't be like the movies, but, come on, it can't be this bad.

It'd be really nice to see students stick together in support of what they believe in, the school teams. I don't know about you, but I hate to hear in the day's announcements, "Bishop Ford lost to..."

I really feel more importance should be placed on school sports. I think if the teams see our enthusiasm, it can be turned into energy for the game. The players may even feel obligated to do well.

It may sound corny, but I feel school spirit is a very important part of high school. When I am outside of school and asked what school I attend, I'd like to be proud to say "Bishop Ford, Home of the **Falcons**."

Raquel Rodriguez

Freedom Of The Press Must Be Preserved

by Robert Galvin

Most people who don't read the school newspaper say it's outdated and doesn't interest them, so why should they bother with it? But, in reality, a school newspaper does not exist to showcase some person or group. It exists to allow the students of the school to vent their feelings about their school and their lives at school. Examples would be how they feel about the dress code or the dean's confiscating walkmans.

The reason I bring up this point is because a school in New Jersey is fighting to keep their newspaper because it clashed with the administration. The students are now in United States Supreme Court.

I hope this New Jersey school's fight to keep its newspaper will help us understand the gift of freedom of the press in our school.

HIGHPOINT

Bishop Ford Central Catholic High School
500 19th Street
Brooklyn, New York 11215

Staff: John Ryan, Sonia Perez, Blanca Cepeda, Kate Smith, Shirley Collado, Christopher Mari, Robert McDermott, Raquel Rodriguez, Robert Galvin, DayAn Molina, Alana Swords, Karen Bentsen, Yamilee Germain, Michael Wysokowski, Dan Perrone, Steve Garcia, Joyce Chin and Vilma Cardenas.

Principal: Brother Michel Bettigole, O.S.F.

Advisor: George A. McKay.



The World Of Rock

by DayAn Molina

These are some of the latest records, rated on a star scale of 1 to 5:

SUICIDAL TENDENCIES

Possessed to Skate (Caroline)

This new 12" single is the epitome of bang-up, slam-up, core punk. Not only were the fast-paced drums and white-hot guitars in "Human Guinea Pig" and "Two Wrongs" mentally riveting, but the overall theme and lyrics of the title song, a tribute to skaters, was powerful. It really made you want to thrash. A well-deserved five stars.

DEPECHE MODE

Music for the Masses

The meaning of life has finally been revealed through the haunting instrumental parts on the B side of this group's latest album. In addition to the philosophical, calm, almost sadistic lyrics and mixtures of sound in songs such as "Drive" and "Never Let Me Down," there are also plenty of danceable hits on the new album. What a relief this record is for all the **Depeche Mode** fans who were afraid the group had gone commercial after their recent club hit, "Strangelove!" Four and a half stars.

FLEETWOOD MAC

Tango in the Night (Warner Bros.)

This album has a few good (but very-easy-to-get-sick-of) tunes on it, such as "Seven Wonders," "Little Lies," and "Welcome to the Room." It gets slightly better on side B, with Family Man's bongos and deep, resonant backup singing, and the guitar solo and echoing voices of **Christine McVie** on "Isn't It Midnight." The slow, calm, almost a capella "When I See You Again" is really quite good. **Stevie Nicks** really does the lyrics justice. The giant hit on side A is without a doubt "Big Love," a song that **Kate Bush** would probably die for. The precision of the music and the perfection of the harmony make this record a worthwhile buy, but you'd think that the group would try to be a little less predictable by now. Three stars.

U2

Silver and Gold/Spanish Eyes (Island)

These two songs are the B-sides to two of U2's most recent hits from the **Joshua Tree** album. The group lives up to its bigger-than-life-and-the-entire-comos image with the searing emotion in the lyrics that practically melts the turntable. The music is incredible; it makes you just want to get up and dance, and when Bono moans out "Ooh . . . Baby, hang on . . ." in "Spanish Eyes," it's more than likely that any Spanish girl who's a U2 fan will go wild with hysteria. Once again, a raving success for U2. Five stars each.

MEN WITHOUT HATS

Pop Goes the World

The musicbox-inspired tune in this new single is pleasing to the ear, as well as unique. The messages being sent to the listener through the use of children's voices and the ac-

cent changes that are present throughout the song are serious and give a better view of our world. Let's hope the album turns out just as good as this single. Three and a half stars.

THE CURE

Kiss Me, Kiss Me, Kiss Me (Electra/Asylum)

The Cure has once again stunned their fans with their most recent double album set. The easy-to-dance-to, happy-go-lucky songs "Hot, Hot, Hot," "Just Like Heaven," "Why Can't I Be You?" and "Catch" are perfect for parties. The guitars and the drums on "The Kiss," "Shiver and Shake," and "Hey, You!" are also terrific, and **Robert Smith** shows off his vocal talent, in the album's softer and slower tunes, "Beautiful" and "One More Time." The sanheim music and echoing voices in "If Only We Could Sleep" stress the group's originality even more. The lyrics were thought-provoking, with many narrative songs that were really worth listening to. The only gripe is that in many songs, the group skimped on all those mind-scrambling lyrics we Cure fans adore. A job well done. Four and a half stars.

Poems

by Karin Bentsen

Them

Music fills the crowded room
As energetic people dance to
their tune.
Lovers chat quietly, sitting on
a couch.
Lonely people look on, sitting
in a slouch.
The music gets softer, and she
closes the door.
The lovers get up to dance
on the floor.
Lonely people look up and
smile at their friends.
Before you know it, the party
ends.
Lovers leave to go out to eat.
Lonely people leave, with no
one to meet.
Lovers go home and can't
wait 'til tomorrow.
Lonely people go home and
wallow in sorrow.

The Beat of a Heart

Did you hear that?
I did.
Do you know what it was?
It was the sound of life.
You still can't hear it?
Listen again.
It's the sound of a heart,
Beating 'til the end.



Myra Zamora

Faculty Focus: Mr. John Dilgen

by Yamilee Germain

He can be found sporting a pair of sleek, neat trousers, topped off with a nice, if "conservative," shirt to complete his ensemble.

Of course, some of you may be in a complete daze by now. Others of you may instantly know whom I'm referring to: Mr. Dilgen, of course!

As a five-year "veteran" of our school, Mr. Dilgen is considered one of the most outgoing and versatile teachers currently at Ford. One would hardly think his job had not been planned by this "self-professed" philosopher of religion.

Born and bred a Brooklynite, Mr. Dilgen graduated from our school, a distinguished member of the Class of '74. He attended Brooklyn College and majored in history. So, what possessed this flamboyant being to join the ranks of religious educators?

"Actually, it was Karma," he chimes in, light-heartedly. I was a soccer coach before I tried my luck at Ford. A year later there was a job opening here, so I took it." But why religion, you might inquire.

Inquiring Minds Want To Know . . .

Actually, having been provided the challenge, Mr. Dilgen leaped at the opportunity, never looking back nor regretting it.

"I would have run for the Presidency," he adds, with twinkling eyes. But the job was already taken."

Sure, there are pit-falls and mishaps to overcome in a day's journey into a teacher's life. But I think most of us are in agreement that Mr. Dilgen is a thumbs-up person.

Perhaps humility is what gives him a good perspective on things. "I could be better organized," he says coyly.

As an avid skier, Mr. Dilgen is also engaged in the friendly pursuit of sumi-e painting. In case you're wondering, it's the honorable art of Japanese painting.

Mr. Dilgen's admiration for such a "tender" profession stems from two role models, "paragons of perfection": Brother Michael's humanistic approach to this profession, and Mr. Gaglio's witty view.

Mr. Dilgen doesn't make any death threats. His sentiments are that, "Religion involves everyday living, and ultimately the choice is yours."

He also stands firm on the conviction that "parents rely too much on schools as a source of learning. Parents are the primary educators!" he states emphatically.

On the flip-side, Mr. Dilgen feels our school is good in its attempt to educate the future of America. "Teachers and students communicate with such ease here," he says. Adjusting his sleeves, "Overall, I'd say I enjoy my job. The good far outweighs the bad. Don't you agree?"

In conclusion, Mr. Dilgen poetically stated, "This holiday season, give to others. Be more generous."



Mr. John Dilgen

Student Spotlight: Myra Zamora

by Alana M. Swords

You've probably seen her in the halls, laughing and saying hello to practically everyone she sees. This makes you ask yourself, "Who is this girl?" Well, her name is Myra Zamora.

She came to Ford three years ago on a partial scholarship. Most clubs in this school have known her presence. She has been in the tech crew, the drama club, **Pagoda**, the Junior Activities Committee, Ford in Action, the National Honor Society, and the Foreign Language Club. Her's was the first class to be in Block Honors, and she has participated in the last three Dance-a-thons.

Myra was elected Junior Class President last year, and this year she is Maria Carmona's presidential advisor. When she graduates in June she hopes to go to Columbia University to work for a Ph.D. in psychology. Then she would like to go on to become a psychiatrist. She is also considering the possibility of going to Mount St. Vincent.

When she goes on vacation in the summer she works with the special ed. children at a sleep-away camp upstate. Working with the special ed. children has always been of great interest to her. She enjoys volunteering for the Special Olympics held here at Ford in the spring, which is sponsored by Ford in Action.

Myra ended this interview by saying that, when she is thought of by other people, she likes to be thought of as a nice person and a good friend.

*The Editors
And Staff
Of
Highpoint
Wish The
Entire
Bishop Ford
Community
A
Merry
Christmas
And A
Happy
New Year*

Sportlight:

Peter Aquilone

by Michael Wysokowski

Many have heard Peter Aquilone's name over the p.a. system for his outstanding accomplishments on the Bishop Ford track team. Well, we at **Highpoint** have decided to find out more about the number-one man on the varsity team. Here is what we found out:

Highpoint: When, exactly, did you join track and why?

Peter: "Freshman year. I wanted to play basketball, so Mr. Nash told me to join track to shape up. Unfortunately, I wasn't good at basketball, but I did, indeed, fall in love with track."

Highpoint: Who was your training partner for four years?

Peter: "Basically the whole team, but mainly Adrian Gonzalez. I ran with him a lot when we weren't practicing. This last year certainly would not have been the same if Stuart McLeod and Sean Rice hadn't been there to help me at practice and at track meets."

Highpoint: What are your best and worst times in cross country?

Peter: "In Cross Country my worst was 16 min. 30 sec. sophomore year, and my best is 13 min. 13 sec. this year (senior year)."

Highpoint: How did it feel when the varsity team won Brooklyn champs?

Peter: "Oh my! It was one of the greatest feelings of my whole life. The team and I had worked for it since the end of the second year (Peter's sophomore year). It really made all the work in two years worthwhile. One of the best parts of that day was seeing all seven guys in the race run as fast as they possibly could. It's really great to see seven people giving it all for a team goal. That was just icing on the cake for me."

Highpoint: How does it feel to be the top person on the varsity team?

Peter: "It's great. It's always been a goal of mine since freshman year. All the hard work finally paid off."

Highpoint: What else do you do in your spare time?

Peter: "I don't work, but most of the time (if you know track) it's very hard to find spare time. You're either running or you're too tired. I am on an outside basketball team, and I spend a lot of time with my teammates going out on weekends; the team have become pretty much my best friends."

Highpoint: What college are you planning to attend?

Peter: "Well, my top choice is William and Mary in Virginia. I have received a letter from the track coach there, and I am hoping to get some type of scholarship from the school. My other choices are Fordham, Georgetown, and North Carolina."



Peter Aquilone (right) takes the lead.

Highpoint: Will you continue track in college?

Peter: "Definitely. I hope to get a scholarship or to use my track background to get into a college."

Highpoint: Besides your teammates, who gave you the best run?

Peter: "Joe Tanuzzo of McClancy gave me the toughest race of my life on the 5,000 meter run. And Paul Whittiker of Xaverian always gives me tough races."

Highpoint: How are you academically?

Peter: "Pretty good. I've held an 85 average for three years, and I scored a 1050 on the S.A.T. exam."

Highpoint: Has track ever interfered with your studies?

Peter: "Yes, occasionally. Track takes up a lot of my time, and most of the time I'm too tired. Also, there are track meets on week days, which doesn't help. Sometimes homework becomes a second priority."

Highpoint: What do you think about the team and their leadership?

Peter: "I think the whole team's attitude is great. Everybody wants to win. I think Eileen Cunningham is doing great with freshman girls and varsity girls. I think Sean Rice and Stuart McLeod are really doing what they're supposed to do by helping freshman and varsity boys. I also think the reason for winning is the attitude change; everyone gains strong confidence."

Highpoint: Do you have any last statements?

Peter: "Yes. I think that Coach Vazquez should be commended for what he's done. He has a positive attitude that's rubbed off on the whole team. He took a team that hadn't even qualified for the first section of championship and made us a contender. On a more personal note, I have to thank my teammates for always helping me when I needed help. I also have to thank Mr. Fernandez, who really helped me during the toughest part of my running career. And, most of all, thanks to my parents, who backed me 100%, no matter how good or bad I did."

REMEMBER THE MDA
DANCE-A-THON
JANUARY 29-30, 1988

FOOTBALL

Like It Shouldn't Be

by Dan Perrone

Well, it's Christmas time, and with the baseball season over and the basketball and hockey seasons in full swing, the football season is coming to a close with the playoffs starting soon.

And what about New York's hometown teams? The Jets coming off a season that saw them go 10-1 before losing their last five games didn't exactly start the 1987 season in the same fashion they did last year. Halfway through the season the Jets were 3-4 in a tie for second place and already losing twice to the hapless Indianapolis Colts. They started with a 2-0 record, but both replacement and regular players saw the Jets go into a 1-5 tailspin over their last six games. The Jets offensive line is as impermeable as sand and mud. Defensive leader Mark Gastineau is playing like he is lost in space. But kicker Pat Leahy is having another solid season. As for their chances of making the playoffs, they

would have to play over .500 ball the rest of the season.

The Giants aren't exactly having a season to write home about, either, as the defending Super Bowl Champs, who went 17-2 last year and were 1-5 halfway through the 1987 season. With the regulars 0-2 via a blowout loss to the Bears and a tough loss to the Cowboys and the replacements going 0-3, the Giants were dug into a hole with an 0-5 record before winning their first game. The defense was struggling, with 1986 MVP defensive leader Lawrence Taylor having a poor season, and the offense mediocre, with Joe Morris and Mark Bavaro well off their 1986 performances. The Giants aren't dominating teams the way they did in 1986. The Giants' chances of making the playoffs are more difficult than the Jets', as they would probably have to go 8-1 just to be a wild card team.

With the Jets' and Giants' records to start the 1987 season, it kind of makes you look forward to mid-terms and finals.

Nightmares
of

JOJO
DIVERS

By Steve

B. Garcia

